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SUBJECT: BRAZIL HAS NO RESPONSE ON NORTH KOREAN TAEPO-DONG

2 LAUNCH

- 11. (U) Charge delivered demarche (ref A) on April 8 to Ambassador Roberto Jaguaribe, Under Secretary for Political Affairs in the Ministry for External Relations, who made no specific response on the North Korean rocket launch. Jaguaribe shared Brazil's views on North Korea in general and Brazil's decision to open an Embassy in Pyongyang, (previously reported reb B), but did not comment on the launch itself.
- (SBU) Jaquaribe noted that North Korea feels permanently threatened. In his view, the best way to deal with North Korea is through engagement, not confrontation. Noting that the current South Korean government is "more confrontational" than its predecessor, he said engagement is a better approach because it can cause stress in rigid and closed regimes by revealing internal differences while confrontation provokes unity. Japan is key to the solution, and secondarily, China, he stated. Brazil has found North Korea very difficult to decipher but is willing to share insights gained from its embassy in Pyongyang after it is opened (ref B). Brazil hopes the Obama administration will continue and expand the North Korea policy of the last period of the Bush administration, that is, through the Six Party Talks, he concluded. SOBEL